



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 6, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Golden Eagle Mines, Yerian Mine, S/047/034, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 23, 2003  
Time of Inspection: 12:15-1:00 p.m.  
Conditions: Clear, 80's  
Participants: Paul Baker (DOGM)

## Purpose of Inspection:

I wanted to become familiar with the area and to check the status since the most recent inspection report indicates the mine appears to be abandoned.

## Getting to the Site:

Take SR 45 south from Vernal. Just before this highway crosses the Green River, there is a road leading to the right that essentially parallels the river. Stay on the main road as it narrows and crosses a sort of pass then heads south into Horseshoe Bend. Continue on the west side of Horseshoe Bend but stay on the main road to the south end of Horseshoe Bend. The mine is in this area.

## Observations:

In general, the site consists of several excavations and piles of various combinations of soil and gravel (Photos 1 and 2). There are numerous small excavations (Photo 3), and although I didn't attempt to count them, it appeared there could be as many as 100 or so. I saw only three pieces of equipment, two of which are shown in Photo 4. The item not shown is an old rusty screen.

I did not use a GPS unit to map the area because I was not familiar with the history of the site and whether there might be previously disturbed areas or areas of disturbance for which the operator is not responsible. If most of the disturbance at the south end of Horseshoe Bend is associated with the mine, as it appears to be based on previous inspection reports and maps, I believe the disturbed area greatly exceeds five acres.

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Golden Eagle Mines, Inc., Yerian Mine

S/047/034

Inspection date: May 23, 2003; Report date: June 6, 2003

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

I agree with the conclusion Tony Gallegos made two years ago that the site appears to be abandoned. There is no evidence of recent activity, and the last time the operator submitted an annual report was for the year 1999. Permit fees were last paid in 1999. Since March 6, 2000, when the Division received the 1999 annual report, there has been no recorded contact with the operator. The 1999 annual report does not discuss whether any mining had taken place that year.

The Division should attempt to contact the operator and see if there are plans for any future operations. If not, the operator needs to reclaim the site. It would also be helpful to meet with Pete Sokolosky (BLM, Vernal) at the site and learn which disturbances were created by the operator and which might be the responsibility of other entities. If the area for which the operator is responsible is more than five acres, a notice of noncompliance should be issued.

Reclamation of this site should not be terribly difficult and would basically involve regrading the piles of material and revegetating the area. Revegetation might be difficult because of the amount of cheatgrass.

jb

cc: Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM)  
Kevin Russell and Walter Babiy, (Golden Eagle Mines)  
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**ATTACHMENT**  
**Inspection Date: May 23, 2003; Report Date: June 6, 2003**  
**Photographs**  
**S/047/034, Yerian Mine, Golden Eagle Mines, Inc.**



**Photo 1. An overview of part of the disturbed area.**



**Photo 3. Some of the many small excavations.**



**Photo 2. Another overview of part of the disturbed area.**



**Photo 4. Equipment remaining on site. In addition to these two items, there was an old rusty screen.**